

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 18, 2004

RESULTS FROM WAVE I OF SMOOTH OPERATOR IN, WAVE II TO BEGIN JUNE 20

The MPDC and dozens of other law enforcement agencies have teamed up again this spring and summer to put the brakes on aggressive driving in the Washington, DC region. The Smooth Operator program, initiated in 1997, strives to reduce aggressive driving by blanketing DC, Maryland, and Virginia with four, one-week law enforcement waves, combined with an extensive public awareness campaign. With nearly 100 participating public agencies and private groups, including state and local law enforcement agencies, the 2004 Smooth Operator campaign is reminding citizens of the consequences of aggressive driving, including fines, jail time, or worse—injuring or killing someone. This year's theme is "Aggressive Driving Is Contagious—Catch It and You're Caught!" Right here in DC, close to 14,000 violations were issued during the first wave of Smooth Operator 2004. Although not as high as the 16,232 issued in 2003, it is a significant increase from the 8,761 in 2002. Wave II of Smooth Operator is scheduled to begin this Sunday, June 20, and run through June 26.

- ① For more information on Smooth Operator, including the dates of the other two waves, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtml>
- ① For information on Smooth Operator results in 2003 and 2002, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtml#results>
- ① Read the kickoff news release from Wave I of Smooth Operator at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2716>

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING CONTINUES TO REMAIN AT RECORD LOW IN PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT ZONES

For the second consecutive month, fewer than 5 percent of the vehicles monitored by photo radar were speeding aggressively during May 2004. Of the nearly 1.3 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during the month, only about 62,000 were found to be speeding above the threshold established for the program. Last month's aggressive speeding rate of 4.7 percent is (along with April 2004) the lowest since DC's photo radar speeding reduction program began in July 2001. DC's first stationary photo radar camera, located in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE, continues to have a significant impact on reducing speeding on this roadway, which borders Gallaudet University. Following a month-long warning period, the stationary camera began generating citations in late March. During both April and May, fewer than 4 percent of the drivers in this enforcement zone were speeding aggressively, down from approximately 7 percent in March 2004 and 11.5 percent in February 2004. During May, the average speed of all vehicles traveling in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE, was actually slightly below the speed limit of 25 mph. In the nearly three years the program has been in operation, the percentage of aggressive speeders in photo radar enforcement zones has declined by more than 80 percent.

- ① For more information and detailed results of the photo radar program, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtml#results>
- ① For the latest results on DC's red-light camera intersection safety program, go to:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtml>

ARRESTS MADE IN ALLEGED FENCING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST

On Tuesday evening, June 15, 2004, members of the department's Second District's Focus Mission Unit and Detectives Office concluded a four-month-long investigation into alleged fencing operations. Armed with arrest and search warrants, officers raided the Szechuan House Restaurant, located at 515 8th Street, SE, Pizza Boli's, located at 417 8th Street, SE, and a private residence, located in the 700 block of 7th Street, SE. As a result, six adult males were arrested at Pizza Boli's, one adult male at the Szechuan House Restaurant and one adult female at the private residence on 7th Street, SE. All eight subjects were charged with Receiving Stolen Property/Felony. These arrests were part of an ongoing operation by the Second District in its continuing efforts to combat an economic base for many crimes such as burglaries, robberies, etc.

DUI VICTIM RECIPIENT OF 4TH ANNUAL 'GOLDEN CHILD' AWARD

On September 27, 2002, Erica Shaheed, then only seven years old, was struck by a drunk driver while she was crossing the street at the intersection of Illinois Avenue and Ingraham Street, NW, with her 13-year-old cousin. Erica was dragged approximately 400 yards before the truck struck another car and came to a halt. She suffered brain trauma, a fractured leg, damage to her pancreas and the loss of her right ear from that hit-and-run, but none of that has kept Erica down. She's still a happy, active young lady. She has endured more in her first ten years than some people do in a lifetime, and, because of that, she was awarded the fourth annual Golden Child Award, created for children who have gone through or are enduring an exceptionally difficult time in their life. This year's Golden Child event was held on Monday, June 14. Donations from private companies and proceeds from a basketball tournament fundraiser will be awarded to Erica's family to help them with medical expenses.

NEWS & NOTES

Using Cell Phone While Driving to be Prohibited. Effective July 1, members of the Metropolitan Police Department will begin enforcing the "Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004." For the first 30 days, drivers will receive a warning—this warning period will end on August 1. The Act prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using a mobile telephone or other electronic device while operating a motor vehicle in the District of Columbia, except when equipped with a built in speaker or a hands-free accessory. Additionally, a person who possesses a learner's permit shall be prohibited from using a mobile telephone or other electronic device, while operating a motor vehicle in the District of Columbia, even if the telephone is equipped with a built-in speaker or a hands-free accessory. The penalty for violating this act shall be a notice of infraction, which carries a fine of \$100.

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2750>

- ① Read the complete Washington Post article at:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46889-2004Jun16.html>

- ① Read the original news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1733>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/18/04)

- 2004: 85
- 2003: 114
- % Change: -25.4%
- Closure Rate: 54.1% (46 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 6/12/04)

- Total: 857
- Drugs: 111
- Weapons: 17
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 18
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 20

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/16/04)

- June: 90
- 2004 Total: 957

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/18/04)

- 2004: 25
- 2003: 30
- % Change: -16.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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